

Message Text

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20

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 049252

R 152009Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 113542

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MAY 15, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. THERE'S A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THIS
MORNING THAT SADAT WANTS TO HAVE YOUR MONEY TO PAY OFF THE
SOVIET UNION. DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

A. I READ THAT ARTICLE AND I CHECKED THE TEXT OF THE FBIS
ON THAT INTERVIEW WHICH I ASSUME THE ARTICLE WAS BASED ON.
AND AT LEAST MY READING OF THE FBIS WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH
THE NEWS ACCOUNT. I MIGHT JUST QUOTE TO YOU FROM FBIS 143,
WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN THE PRESS ROOM.

THE QUESTION WAS FROM THE PERSON INTERVIEWING PRESIDENT
SADAT: "SINCE THESE DEBTS ARE FROM THE PRICE OF ARMS WHICH
WERE BOUGHT FOR THE NATIONAL BATTLE, WHY DO YOU NOT DISCUSS
THE MATTER WITH THE ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE MONEY SURPLUSES

SO THEY WOULD PAY THE SOVIETS ON EGYPT'S BEHALF, OR AT
LEAST GIVE GUARANTEES THAT EGYPT WILL PAY THEM ON INSTALL-
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MENT WHEN IT CAN?"

THAT WAS THE QUESTION. AND THE REPLY -- THIS IS A TRANS-
LATION -- FULL QUOTE: "PRESIDENT SADAT REPLIED: QUOTE --
'WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH OUR ARAB BROTHERS, NOT TO PAY OUR
DEBTS BUT TO QUICKLY STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY SO THAT WE
WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DISCHARGE OUR OBLIGATION TOWARD
THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS. OUR CONTACTS ARE NOT CONFINED TO

OUR ARAB BROTHERS. WE ARE ALSO IN CONTACT WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS IN MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN SALZBURG.' UNQUOTE"

I DON'T THINK THE TWO ARE IN ACCORD.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT IN THE WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING SAYING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT IN KANSAS CITY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO DROP ITS OPPOSITION TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RAW MATERIALS IS THE RESULT OF SAUDI WARNINGS OF A CHANGE IN THEIR POLICY. DO YOU WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT.

A. WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT. I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, THAT ADDRESS, THE SECRETARY SPELLED OUT THE U.S. POSITION. WE HAD AGREED AT THE END OF THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH THE PARTICIPANTS WITH A VIEW OF RESUMING THE WORK UNDERTAKEN THERE. WE'VE BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE IEA AND WITH OTHER KEY PRODUCER COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES WHICH PREVENTED AGREEMENT AT THAT TIME. AND NOW THE SECRETARY IN HIS STATEMENT HAS REFLECTED OUR IDEAS ON THE NEXT STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO RESUME THAT DIALOGUE. SO IT'S NOT AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT.

Q. WERE THERE WARNINGS FROM THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT?

A. I,M NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH WARNINGS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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